Experimental Programs
Technical Assistance and Handbook
2007-08

Professional Services Division

May 1, 2008

Overview of this Report

At its March 2008 meeting, the Commission adopted the revised Experimental Program Standards. Staff planned two technical assistance meetings to support prospective program sponsors in developing and submitting Experimental Programs. This item is an update on that work and begins a discussion on the procedures that will be used to review prospective Experimental Programs

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item.

Technical Assistance Meetings

Two technical assistance meetings have been scheduled to support prospective sponsors of experimental programs.

- Wednesday, April 16   CSU Dominguez Hills   Carson, CA
- Thursday, April 17th   Commission Offices   Sacramento, CA

The technical assistance meetings were designed to allow time for an overview of the revised Experimental Program Standards, sharing by previous experimental program sponsors, and group dialogue about possible experimental programs. The staff provided copies of the Experimental Program Standards and reviewed the rationale, goals, and policy principles for Experimental Programs: http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/Experimental-Program.doc. One of the additional handouts used at the technical assistance meetings is provided on page 3.

Since the technical assistance meetings are scheduled at the same time as the cut off for this agenda item, staff will orally report to the COA at the May meeting.

Experimental Program Standards Handbook

A small handbook is being compiled, much like all other approved programs, to guide prospective program sponsors in preparing and submitting an experimental program. Traditionally, the Standards Handbook provides the adopted standards in addition to the guidance. A possible table of contents is provided below and staff is interested in any suggestions from the COA on what should be in the handbook.

- Introduction
- Rationale for Experimental Programs
- Submission Guidelines: Procedures for Submitting an Experimental Program
- Proposal Organization
- Responding to the Experimental Program Standards
- Experimental Program Standards:

- Standard 1: Program Rationale
- Standard 2: Research Question(s)
- Standard 3: Program Design
- Standard 4: Research Design
- Standard 5: Anticipated Outcomes
- Standard 6: Contribution to Scholarship and the Profession
- Procedures for Implementing an Experimental Program
- Policy Principles Underlying the 2008 Redesign of the Experimental Program Standards
- Appendices:
  - Intent to Submit an Experimental Program
  - Transmittal Cover Sheet

A sample timeline that might be provided in the Experimental Program Standards Handbook:

Possible Steps and Timeline for Approval of an Experimental Program Proposal	Prospective Sponsor	Commission Staff	Committee on Accreditation
Institution or program sponsor identifies an issue, question, or problem that can be addressed through a preparation program that varies from the Commission's adopted program standards.	**Month 1**		
Institution or program sponsor submits a 3-5 page paper describing the issue, question, or problem to the Commission.	**Month 2**		
Staff reviews the proposal brief and provides technical assistance to the institution or program sponsor in developing the full program proposal. Staff reports to the Committee information regarding possible proposals.		**Month 3**	**Month 4**
Institution or program sponsor submits the full proposal, addressing the Preconditions, Common Standards, and Standards for Experimental Programs.	**Month 3-6**		
Program proposal is reviewed by a panel of educators (peer review). Reviewers may ask for additional information if the proposal does not initially meet the Experimental Program Standards.		**Month 7-8**	
Program goes to the Committee on Accreditation for approval once the reviewers agree that the proposal meets the Experimental Program Standards.			**Month 9**
Program begins implementation.	**Month 9 or later**		

An Institution or Program Sponsor that wants to offer an <u>Experimental Program</u>

1) Must ask a research question and design a study to gather data to answer the question.

   For example, the question might attempt to gather data on

   1) Delivery model(s) for an educator preparation program

   2) Emphasis or focus on specific skills or knowledge for program completers—knowledge and skills identified in the candidate outcomes for the credential authorization or additional knowledge or skills.

2) Offer a preparation program that is a blend of two or more preparation programs or a program that can not currently be offered under the Commission's adopted program standards

   OR

   Offer a program that can be offered under the adopted standards, but gather data about the efficacy of the delivery model or the program completer's knowledge, skills or abilities.

Possible Experimental Program Concepts:

1) An undergraduate teacher preparation program designed to prepare math and science teachers for urban schools.

2) A teacher preparation program designed to utilize community college courses, early field work, and simultaneous completion of a bachelor's degree and a credential in a study of teacher retention.

3) An administrative services program designed to prepare teacher leaders who do not plan to serve as site principals.

4) An administrative services program designed to prepare site administrators to lead Multiple Pathways Schools, or to serve in leadership roles in bilingual schools, or to support special education service delivery in schools.